

Please amend the application filed on September 26, 2006, prior to proceeding with its examination.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Assembly comprising:

- a ring having anchoring elements for attaching the ring in a passage surrounded by body tissue, in particular blood vessel tissue;
- an applicator for fitting the ring in the passage;

in which the anchoring elements have an anchoring position in which they protrude outwardly with respect to the ring; and

in which the anchoring elements comprise a memory material, such as a memory metal or memory polymer, and are designed so that they can be bent from an anchoring position counter to a spring force into a fitting position and can be frozen in this fitting position by a temperature treatment in order to bend the anchoring elements back from the fitting position by the effect of this spring force into the anchoring position when a predetermined threshold is exceeded; and

in which the applicator is provided distally with a carrier for carrying the ring; characterized in that,

the assembly is provided with an influencing system for influencing the temperature of the anchoring elements of the ring carried by the carrier in such a way that the anchoring elements bend back from the fitting position to the anchoring position by increasing the temperature of the anchoring elements to above the threshold temperature.

2. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 1, [in which] wherein the influencing system comprises a cooling device for cooling the anchoring elements to a temperature below the threshold temperature.
3. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 1, [or 2, in which] wherein the influencing system comprises a heating device for heating the anchoring elements to a temperature above the threshold temperature.
4. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, [in which] wherein the part of the carrier contacting the ring is made of a metal, and [in which] wherein, the influencing system is connected in a heat-exchanging manner to that part of the carrier contacting the ring or forms part of the carrier.
5. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the influencing system comprises a Peltier element.
6. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the influencing system comprises a channel for supplying a fluid, such as a liquid or gas, to the carrier.
7. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 6, [in which] wherein the channel comprises at least one free outlet for bringing the fluid into contact with the anchoring elements or the ring.
8. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the influencing system comprises a source for generating an alternating electromagnetic field, and [in which] wherein the carrier and/or the

anchoring elements are designed in such a manner that they are sensitive to heating by [this] the alternating electromagnetic field.

9. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 8, [in which] wherein the source comprises at least one electrically conductive loop which can be connected to an alternating current source.

10. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 9, [in which] wherein the loop surrounds a passage of a size such that the ring can be accommodated therein with play, the size of the passage [preferably] being at least 1.2 times larger[, for example, 1.5 times larger,] than that of the ring.

11. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises gripper parts which can be moved between a position gripping the ring and a position releasing the ring.

12. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the applicator comprises a sleeve which can slide along the applicator between a position overlapping the ring provided on the carrier and a position exposing the ring provided on the carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 12, [in which] wherein the sleeve comprises a distal part which tapers in the distal direction to form a diameter which is smaller than that of the ring, and [in which] [that] the distal part consists of axial fingers which can bend radially outwards from the tapering position in such a manner that [this] the tapering part of the sleeve can be displaced over the ring.

14. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 12, [in which] wherein the

sleeve is provided at its distal end with axial fingers and the ring is provided at its distal end with [these] the anchoring elements, a space being left between neighbouring axial fingers and [in which] wherein the axial fingers are provided in such a manner that, when the ring is accommodated in the sleeve, each axial finger overlaps a respective distal anchoring element.

15. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 14, [in which] wherein the ring is provided at its proximal end with a flange which extends radially outwards for interaction with the distal anchoring elements, and [in which this] wherein the flange is provided with passages for those axial fingers.

16. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 14, [in which] wherein the ring is provided with [these] the anchoring elements at its proximal end, and [in which] wherein [these] the proximal and distal anchoring elements are provided in a staggered manner with respect to each other, seen in the tangential direction of the ring, in such a manner that the axial fingers can overlap with the distal anchoring elements when they protrude through the proximal anchoring elements.

17. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the composition of the material of the anchoring elements is chosen such that the threshold temperature is around or below the human body temperature.

18. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 17, [in which] wherein the threshold temperature is in the range $\leq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$.

19. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 17 [or 18, in which] wherein

the threshold temperature is in the range 19°C[,] to 37°C, [in particular in the range 24°C, 34°C].

20. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the influencing system is designed to be able to raise the temperature of the anchoring elements to at least 5[-] to 10°C above the threshold temperatures.

21. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the influencing system is designed to [keep] maintain the temperature of the anchoring elements approximately 10[-] to 28°C below the threshold temperature.

22. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the ring is provided with a valve prosthesis[, in particular a heart valve prosthesis].

23. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim [19, in which] 22, wherein the valve prosthesis comprises one, two or more valve leaflets, and [in which] wherein the carrier is provided with a longitudinal member extending in the longitudinal direction, against which longitudinal member the valve leaflets of the valve prosthesis supported by the carrier rest in their open position.

24. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [one of claims 1-21, in which] claim 1, wherein the ring is a ring provided with further anchoring elements for attaching a valve prosthesis therein.

25. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [one of claims 1-24, in which] claim

1, wherein the ring is a valve reconstruction ring.

26. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [one of claims 1-24, in which] claim 1, wherein the ring is an anastomosis attachment ring.

27. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [one of claims 1-26, in which] claim 1, wherein the ring is provided with further anchoring elements for attaching a cannula and/or port and/or operating channel.

28. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to [any of the preceding claims, in which] claim 1, wherein the assembly is fitted with one or more sensors and/or one or more marks distally, in particular near the carrier.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Original) Heart valve prosthesis comprising:

- a ring member for attachment to body tissue surrounding said ring;
- one, two, or more valve leaflets arranged inside the ring-member; and
- a constriction system having anchoring pins for penetrating into the body tissue, the anchoring pins being arranged around the circumference of the ring member and adapted to move, when the pins have fully penetrated into the body tissue, the pins from a first penetrated position in a radial inward direction to a second penetrated position to constrict the body tissue.

32. (Original) Prosthesis according to claim 31, wherein the pins are bent from the second penetrated position into the first penetrated position against a

spring force and are fixed in the first penetrated position in a releasable manner such that upon release the pins return to the second penetrated position.

33. (Currently Amended) Prosthesis according to claim 31 [or 32], wherein the pins are arranged on a carrier adapted to shorten such that the pins move in radially inward direction.

34. (Currently Amended) Prosthesis according to [one of claims 31-33] claim 31, wherein the constriction system comprises a ring element adapted to lie around the ring member.

35. (New) Prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein the pins are arranged on a carrier adapted to shorten such that the pins move in a radially inward direction.

36. (New) Prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein the pins are bent from the second penetrated position into the first penetrated position against a spring force and are fixed in the first penetrated position in a releasable manner such that upon release the pins return to the second penetrated position.

37. (New) Prosthesis according to claim 33, wherein the pins are arranged on a carrier adapted to shorten such that the pins move in a radially inward direction.

38. (New) Assembly according to claim 9, wherein the loop surrounds a passage of a size such that the ring can be accommodated therein with play,

the size of the passage being at least 1.5 times larger than that of the ring.

39. (New) Assembly according to claim 18, wherein the threshold temperature is in the range of 24°C to 34°C.

40. (New) Assembly according to claim 18, wherein the ring is provided with a heart valve prosthesis.